

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 1, 2007 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment modifies claims 1 and 2 in accordance with the originally-filed specification and drawings. No new matter has been added. The present Amendment also cancels claims 5 and 7-9. Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 6 are currently pending in this application, and claim 1 is in independent form.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) because the drawings allegedly fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner has required that the "contact elastically deform" and the "main module" be shown in the drawings or the features canceled from claims 7 and 9, respectively.

Claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled by this Amendment, thus rendering the above-described drawing objection moot.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph Rejection

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected claim 9 because there is no drawing of the main module and therefore it is unclear how the main module connects to an electrical cable.

Claim 9 has been cancelled by this Amendment, thus rendering this rejection of claim 9 moot.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,931,683 to Pinel. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

As defined by amended independent claim 1, the present invention is directed to a modular electronic device, for example a car radio, a navigation system or a radar

detection system. The device includes a fixed module fitted with external electrical contact elements, which is to be mounted with its rear side on a wall, for example a dashboard, and a detachable module fitted with electronic components and external electrical contact elements. The fixed module and the detachable module include mating guide surfaces, which guide the detachable module to the correct position upon connection thereof to the fixed module. The detachable module can be connected with its rear wall to a front side of the fixed module in such a manner that the external electrical contact elements of the two modules are interconnected. One of the front side of the fixed module and the rear wall of the detachable module is provided with at least one magnet and the other one of the front side of the fixed module and rear wall of the detachable module is provided with a metal element, such that the detachable module can be connected to the fixed module through a magnetic force between the magnet and the metal element sufficiently large for pulling the detachable module firmly into contact with the fixed module.

The Pinel patent is directed to a charging device (6) for an apparatus such as a portable telephone (4). The device includes a contact element (21) mounted on an electrically conductive leaf spring (16) which is connected to an electric circuit (not shown). In a state of rest, contact element (21) is positioned behind a wall (14V), but it projects outward through an opening (13) under the influence of a magnet (23) carried through the portable telephone (4) when the telephone (4) is positioned within the charging device (6). The contact element (21) thereby makes contact with a contact plate (9) carried by the telephone (4) (see Figs. 1-3).

The Pinel patent fails to teach or suggest that the front side of the fixed module and the rear wall of the detachable module is provided with at least one magnet and the other one of the front side of the fixed module and rear wall of the detachable module is provided with a metal element such that the detachable module can be connected to the fixed module through a magnetic force between the magnet and the metal element sufficiently large for pulling the detachable module firmly into contact with the fixed module.

The Examiner contends that magnet (23) carried by the portable telephone (4) of the Pinel patent is equivalent to the magnet of the claimed invention. However, this magnet is designed to attract contact element (21) through an opening (13) so that it comes into contact with the contact plate (9) of the portable telephone (4). The Pinel patent does not

teach or suggest that the magnet (23) is used to connect the portable telephone (4) to the charging device (6) through magnetic force or that this magnetic force is sufficiently large for pulling the detachable module firmly into contact with the fixed module as required by amended independent claim 1. Instead, the magnet (23) of the Pinel patent is provided to attract a contact element (21) through a hole (13) such that it makes contact with a contact plate (9) of the portable telephone (4).

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious over the Pinel patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled by this Amendment, thus rendering the rejection of claims 5 and 8 moot. Claims 3, 4 and 6 depend from and add further limitations to amended independent claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with amended independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 4 and 6 are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 2, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness based upon the Pinel patent. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

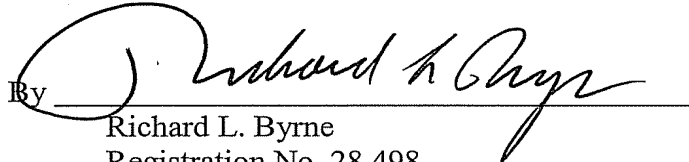
Claims 7 and 9 have been cancelled by this Amendment, thus rendering the rejection of claims 7 and 9 moot. Claim 2 depends from and adds further limitations to independent claim 1 and is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 are respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/509,168
Paper Dated December 27, 2007
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 1, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 0702-045254

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-4 and 6 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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